

Appl. No. 10/709,201
Amdt. dated December 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 05, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Objection to the title of the invention:

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

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Response:

The title of the invention has been amended to more clearly describe the claimed invention. Acceptance of the amended title is respectfully requested.

10 2. Rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsai (US 5,883,727).

Response:

15 Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Each of these claims now clearly recite that the photosensor is installed on the right side of the lens and the plurality of reflectors are installed on the left side of the lens. In addition, the claims recite that no reflector is installed on the right side of the lens or is located above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens or below a second plane defined by a bottom
20 end of the lens. Each of these claim amendments is fully supported in Figures 2-4 of the present invention, and no new matter is added.

The distinguishing characteristic of the present invention is that the image reading device (or scanning module) can be made much thinner by installing all reflectors directly
25 to one side of the lens. Since none of the reflectors are positioned above the plane defined by a top end of the lens or below the plane defined by a bottom end of the lens, the image reading device can be made considerably thinner.

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In contrast, Tsai does not teach that no lenses are positioned above the plane defined by a top end of the lens or below the plane defined by a bottom end of the lens. Tsai's Fig.12 is a cross-sectional view of Fig.11, and illustrates that reflectors 201b, 222, and 212 are installed below the plane defined by a bottom end of lens 12. Similarly, Fig.16 also illustrates that reflector 202c is installed below the plane defined by a bottom end of lens 12 and that reflectors 221 and 201c are installed above the plane defined by a top end of lens 12. None of Tsai's embodiments teach that no reflector is located above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens or below a second plane defined by a bottom end of the lens, as is recited in the currently amended claims 1 and 10. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are dependent on claims 1 and 10, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 10 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 13, 14, and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e):
Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 13, 14, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lan (US 6,762,861).

Response:

Lan does not teach that no lenses are positioned above the plane defined by a top end of the lens or below the plane defined by a bottom end of the lens. In Fig.5, Lan teaches that reflectors 53 and 54 are installed below the plane defined by a bottom end of lens 56. Therefore, Lan fails to teach the claimed limitation that no reflector is located above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens or below a second plane defined by a bottom end of the lens, as is recited in the currently amended claims 1 and 10. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are dependent on claims 1 and 10, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 10 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

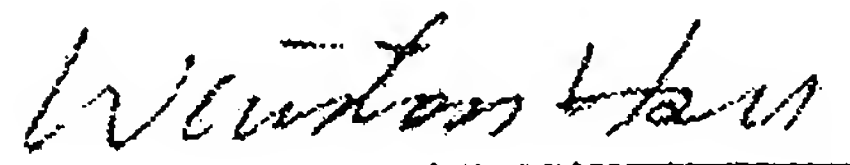
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this

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case.

Sincerely yours,

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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan.)